

Snowdonia National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Saturday 17 Dec 2022 until 23:59 on Sunday 18 Dec 2022

Forecast Issued on Friday 16 Dec 2022 at 15:47

Confidence: High confidence in the change in weather type after further wintery showers on Saturday to a return to milder conditions along with wet and windy conditions for Snowdonia. Lower confidence in the timing of the ingress of milder air on Sunday and precipitation type during the day.

Headline for Saturday 17 Dec 2022: Occasional wintery showers turning more to sleet later in the day, a few bright spells too, fresh or strong southwesterly winds.

Mountain weather hazards on Saturday 17 Dec 2022

Blizzards

Low Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow

No Likelihood

Storm force winds

No Likelihood

Gales

Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect

Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility

Low Likelihood

Thunderstorms

No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain

No Likelihood

Strong sunlight

No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
							
Dull	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow showers (night)	Heavy snow	Sleet showers	Sleet showers	Sleet	Sleet
Precipitation probability							
30%	30%	30%	60%	60%	40%	50%	50%

Forecast for Saturday 17 Dec 2022

Weather: Occasional wintery showers will affect the Snowdonia overnight, especially in the north around Snowdon. Mist and fog patches are also expected widely. Some heavy wintery showers during the morning for Northern mountains, where we could see blizzard conditions at times. Mainly dry further south towards Bala. Snow level will gradually rise on Saturday. Showers of snow above 500m in the morning but above 1000m by late afternoon. A few brighter spells in the south but further showers later in the afternoon and evening for the northern hills.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40% in the north, 60-70% in the south.

Low Cloud and visibility: Scattered or broken cloud layers above 500m around the northern Mountains like Snowdon for most of the morning, more scattered above 600m in the south. Visibility falling moderate or poor in wintery showers at times and in the morning it could be blizzard conditions in wintery showers on the highest summits of the north but outwith showers good visibility.

Forecast for Saturday 17 Dec 2022

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	27/33 SW	28/35 SW	26/33 SW	24/32 SW	23/30 SW	23/30 SW	24/32 SW	27/35 S	28/36 S
600	18/24 S	18/25 S	18/25 S	16/24 SW	16/23 SW	15/22 S	17/24 S	18/25 S	20/29 S
300	11/22 S	11/22 S	11/21 S	10/21 S	10/20 S	9/19 S	11/22 S	11/21 S	12/24 S
Valley	12/23 S	12/23 S	12/22 S	11/22 SW	11/21 S	10/19 S	12/22 S	12/23 S	15/28 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-2/-10	-2/-10	-2/-9	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-9	-2/-10
600	-0/-6	0/-6	0/-6	1/-5	1/-4	1/-4	1/-4	1/-5	-0/-7
300	1/-3	2/-3	2/-2	3/-1	3/-1	4/0	3/-1	3/-1	2/-3
Valley	3/-2	3/-1	3/-1	4/0	5/1	5/2	5/1	4/0	3/-2
Freezing Level*	600m	700m	700m	900m	900m	900m	900m	800m	400m

*Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.

Meteorologist's View

Freezing level lifting throughout the day with showers turning more to sleet or even rain at low levels. Strong southwesterly winds could produce blizzard conditions in heavier showers higher on the mountains, full winter conditions still to be expected. Still a significant windchill at height on the hills and good snow layer underfoot, although some melting will occur at lower levels.

Forecast for Sunday 18 Dec 2022

Weather: Cloudy with a few outbreaks of sleet and snow in the morning, alongside southerly gales there may be some blizzards at first on the more northerly tops like Snowdon. Turning milder with further sleet and rain spreading across the Wales from the west during the afternoon. Heavier outbreaks at times. Rain will ease later but some patchy drizzle may last into the evening. Wet at lower levels later with melting snow.

Maximum wind: Southerly 25-35mph with gusts 40-50mph, stronger gusts on Snowdon at times, perhaps 60mph at times.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: 40%, plenty of low cloud associated with outbreaks of rain/sleet and snow.

Low Cloud and visibility: Patchy cloud at first above 500m soon becoming scattered or broken layers of cloud above 400m. Moderate visibility in the morning but turning very poor at times in strong winds and sleet and snow showers, blizzard conditions at times.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 2 rising to 8 Celsius.

At 800m: Minus 3 rising to Plus 3 Celsius.

Freezing level: 200m in the morning, then rising above all summits in the afternoon.

Ground Conditions Supplement

Please see - <https://snowdonia.gov.wales/visit/snowdon/yr-wyddfa-ground-conditions-reports/>

Issued at: 1547 on Fri 16 Dec 2022